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many at least half the under surface was covered by the dark brown sori. Hundreds of plants were examined, but not one was found free from the fungus. Care was taken to collect some of the oldest and most mature leaves, as well as some of the younger and fresher ones, but only an occasional teleutospore can be found on any. This, probably, may be accounted for from the fact that the Colorado specimens were taken at a time when they had several weeks more in which to complete their growth before being checked by frost, while the Arizona specimens were taken near the close of the long dry season, when the growth was completed, and the plant in a condition similar to that in which the Colorado plants would be at the beginning of the winter.

Whether this Æcidium is only a form of the well known barberry cluster cups or whether it is related to Puccinia mirabilissima remains to be proved by artificial cultures; we merely mention its occurrence in this connection as an interesting fact.

Our specimens give the following characters: Spots bright purple, 3-4 mm. in diameter, very slightly thickened: æcidia hypogenous, long, pale yellow, borders coarsely lacerated; spores subglobose, tuberculate, 15-20μ in diameter.—TRACY & GALLOWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

Abnormal Anemone and Convolvulus.— A description of two abnormal flowers may be of interest to the readers of the GAZETTE, as bearing upon morphology.

The first was a flower of Anemone dichotoma. Normally there are five white sepals, with an involucre some distance below the flower. This specimen had a sixth sepal outside of the others, but so close as to touch. It differed from the rest in that the upper half had the form and color of an involucral leaf, but much smaller. It was half sepal and half leaf.

In the second case the abnormity was deeper seated. A flower of Convolvulus sepium, the wild morning-glory, had four lobes of its large white corolla perfectly developed, but the fifth was about half as wide as it should be and entirely separate from the others. Four of the stamens were perfect, while the fifth, seemingly anxious to compensate for the imperfection of the corolla, was developed in a curious manner. It was placed opposite the point of detachment of the fifth lobe of the corolla; the filament was about the same length as the others, but broader and channeled. One lobe of the anther was fairly well developed, while the other, which was next to the imperfect corolla lobe, had grown into a petal. This portion, which was the exact color and texture of the corolla, was $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide at the top.—A. S. HITCHCOCK, *Iowa City, Iowa.*

A gift to Brown University.—About two years ago it was mentioned that Brown University had the promise of the large and valuable fern collection of the late William Stout, of New York. The promise has been fulfilled by Miss A. A. Stout, who gives the herbarium in the name of her deceased brother and with the understanding that it shall be made available to students and public alike. A large part of the collection has been carefully mounted by the donor on sheets a good deal larger than usual (an advantage, perhaps, with ferns). In most cases there is much duplication, and generous display of material to illustrate geographical distribution. The collection is cosmopolitan. The following items give some idea of the scope of the bequest: Canada to Florida, New Mexico, Arizona and California (565 sheets); India and South India (537 sheets); Ceylon (228 species, 267 sheets); Jamaica (200 species); Trinidad (146 species); Sandwich Islands (100 species); New Zealand (nearly complete collection); New Caledonia, South Africa, Pacific islands and Madagascar (all very complete). Besides hese, there are the herbar a of W. T. Atkinson (570 sheets, mostly North Indian ferns) and Dr. A. P. Garber (Phanerogams of Florida, 340 species). A valuable set of books, comprising the best of fern literature, also accompanies the plants.

It will thus be seen that Brown University acquires a collection of ferns almost as valuable as its fine set of Carices.—W. W. BAILEY, *Brown University.*

Death from eating Cicuta maculata.—Ann Arbor, Michigan, adds another to the already considerable list of poisonings due to this virulent plant. The mild days of last week melted the snow, brought back the birds, and induced a general spring time feeling, to which the children of a neighborhood on the outskirts of the city gave expression by digging and eating the artichokes that occur plentifully on some low ground bordering a brook. Two of these boys were soon taken violently ill, and the son of Julius Krueger, who was eight years old, died within an hour. The violent convulsions, marked dilation of the pupils, and other symptoms indicated some active vegetable poison. Search where the children had been digging brought to light a few suspicious branching tubers, somewhat resembling small dahlias. Their taste was quite suggestive of parsnips, and not particularly disagreeable at first, although less mild than artichoke. On cross section a yellow oily or resinous fluid exuded from a ring of glands in the cortex. No last year's stems could be found, but from the habit of growth, odor, taste, and general appearance of the tubers, and from some nascent leaves on the crown, there was little doubt to what plant they should be referred. A portion of the contents of the stomach of the dead boy afterward came into my possession, and microscopic examination showed the macerated fragments to be identical in structure with the tubers. Finally, an histological comparison with some dried tubers of Cicuta maculata preserved in the university herbarium completed the identification.

The extreme virulence of the poison may be inferred from the comparatively small amount of the tuber found in the stomach on *post-mortem,* and from the fact that the stronger boy, who vomited and recovered,